

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9 and 11. Please cancel claims 20-27. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A digital camera, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a digital optical sensing apparatus mounted within said housing, said digital optical sensing apparatus sensing optical images;
 - a storage medium for storing digital optical images captured by said digital optical sensing apparatus;
 - an acoustic sensor capable of sensing human speech;
 - a speech reduction apparatus coupled to said acoustic sensor, said speech reduction apparatus converting human speech sensed by said acoustic sensor to a symbolic text form; and
 - a controller which stores said symbolic text form in said storage medium in a relationship associated with a captured digital image, wherein said controller:
 - (a) receives a user indication of a plurality of discrete time intervals;
 - (b) records a plurality of discrete human speech segments sensed by said acoustic sensor in respective said discrete time intervals;
 - (c) causes said speech reduction apparatus to convert each said human speech segment to a corresponding symbolic text segment; and
 - (d) automatically associates a respective digital optical image captured by said digital optical sensing apparatus with each said symbolic text segment based on a temporal relationship between the time interval in which the discrete human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment was recorded and the capturing of said digital optical image;

22 wherein said controller associates a respective digital image with each symbolic text
23 segment according to all of the following association priorities:

24 (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment
25 corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with
26 the first digital image;

27 (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until
28 the end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text
29 segment, and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment
30 but before the digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated
31 with the second digital image; and

32 (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most
33 recently captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the
34 symbolic text segment.

1 2. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said controller comprises a
2 programmable processor executing a control program for controlling the operation of said digital
3 camera.

1 3. (Original) The digital camera of claim 2, wherein said speech reduction apparatus
2 comprises a speech reduction algorithm embodied as a plurality of instructions executable on said
3 programmable processor.

1 4. (Original) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said speech reduction apparatus
2 converts said human speech sensed by said acoustic sensor to an intermediate symbolic form
3 comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, said intermediate symbolic form being
4 subsequently reduced to natural language text by a separate apparatus.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a digital camera, comprising the steps of:
2 capturing a plurality of digital images of respective objects of interest with optical sensing
3 apparatus of said digital camera;
4 recording a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in said digital camera
5 during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals, each respective discrete time interval
6 occurring substantially contemporaneously with capturing of each respective digital image of said
7 plurality of digital images;
8 rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a
9 respective corresponding segment of symbolic text using speech reduction apparatus within said
10 digital camera; and
11 automatically associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images
12 with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective
13 corresponding segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective
14 discrete time interval during which the corresponding segment of human speech was recorded and
15 the capturing of the respective digital image, and storing each said symbolic text segment in a
16 relationship associated with each respective said captured digital image;
17 wherein said step of automatically associating each respective digital image of said
18 plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text comprises
19 automatically associating according to all of the following association priorities:
20 (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment
21 corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first
22 digital image;
23 (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the
24 end of the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,
25 and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the

digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital image; and

(3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 5, wherein said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text converts said human speech to an intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, said intermediate symbolic form being subsequently reduced to natural language text by an apparatus separate from said digital camera.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 5, wherein said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text is performed by a programmable processor executing a speech reduction program.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of operating a digital camera of claim 7, wherein said programmable processor further executes a control program for controlling the operation of said digital camera, and said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text is performed by said programmable processor in the background when said control program is otherwise unoccupied.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A program product for controlling the operation of a digital camera,
2 said program product comprising a plurality of processor executable instructions recorded on
3 signal-bearing media, wherein said instructions, when executed by at least one programmable
4 processor within said digital camera, cause the camera to perform the steps of:

5 capturing a plurality of digital images of respective objects of interest with optical sensing
6 apparatus of said digital camera;

7 recording a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in said digital camera
8 during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals, each respective discrete time interval
9 occurring substantially contemporaneously with capturing of each respective digital image of said
10 plurality of digital images;

11 rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a
12 respective corresponding segment of symbolic text using speech reduction apparatus within said
13 digital camera; and

14 associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a
15 respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective corresponding
16 segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective discrete time
17 interval during which the corresponding segment of human speech was recorded and the capturing
18 of the respective digital image, and storing each said symbolic text segment in a relationship
19 associated with each respective said captured digital image;

20 wherein said step of associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital
21 images with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text comprises associating according
22 to all of the following priorities:

23 (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment
24 corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with
25 the first digital image;

26 (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until

the end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment, and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital image; and

(3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment.

10. (Previously Presented) The program product for controlling the operation of a digital camera of claim 9, wherein said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text converts said human speech to an intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, said intermediate symbolic form being subsequently reduced to natural language text by an apparatus separate from said digital camera.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information with digital images, comprising the steps of:

capturing a plurality of digital images of respective objects of interest with optical sensing apparatus of a digital camera;

recording a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in said digital camera during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals occurring substantially contemporaneously with capturing of each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images;

rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech into a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text using speech reduction apparatus within said digital camera;

11 automatically associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images
12 with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective
13 corresponding segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective
14 discrete time interval during which the corresponding segment of human speech was recorded and
15 the capturing of the respective digital image, and recording said association in a memory of said
16 digital camera;

17 uploading said at least one digital image and said at least one segment of symbolic text to a
18 digital image formatting apparatus; and

19 formatting said plurality of digital images and said plurality of segments of symbolic text
20 for viewing by a user using said digital image formatting apparatus, wherein each said segment of
21 symbolic text is formatted for viewing in a human readable form associated with its
22 corresponding digital image;

23 wherein said step of automatically associating each respective digital image of said
24 plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text comprises
25 automatically associating according to at least one of the following priorities:

26 (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment
27 corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first
28 digital image;

29 (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the
30 end of the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,
31 and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the
32 digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital
33 image; and

34 (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently
35 captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text
36 segment.

37 12. (Previously Presented) The method of recording information with digital images of claim
38 11, wherein said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of
39 human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text converts said human
40 speech to an intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, and
41 wherein said step of formatting said plurality of digital images and said plurality of segments of
42 symbolic text for viewing comprises reducing said intermediate symbolic form to natural
43 language text.

1 13. (Original) The method of recording information with digital images of claim 11, wherein
2 said digital image formatting apparatus is a general-purpose digital computer executing a digital
3 image formatting program.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The method of recording information with digital images of claim
2 11, wherein said step of formatting said plurality of digital images and said plurality of segments
3 of symbolic text comprises formatting for output on paper, wherein formatted text is printed on
4 paper with a corresponding digital image.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of recording information with digital images of claim
2 11, wherein said step of formatting said plurality of digital images and said plurality of segments
3 of symbolic text comprises formatting for viewing from an output screen of a digital device,
4 wherein formatted text is displayed on said output screen with a corresponding digital image.

16-27. (Cancelled)